



## Census and Economic Information Center

Montana Department of Commerce

**Release Highlights: October 6, 2005**

### MONTANA

#### NONEMPLOYER STATISTICS: 2003

<http://ceic.mt.gov/cbep.htm>

The Nonemployer series shows the number of businesses with no paid employees, typically involving a very small operation, which may or may not be the owner's sole source of income. The data for this series comes from business tax forms filed with the Internal Revenue Service; there is no sampling error as no survey data are collected.

#### Large Impact in Montana

The 2003 numbers show Montana continuing to see a trend of a large number of these types of business operations. Statewide there are 76,401 "nonemployers," with sales or receipts of \$2,787,587,000. By contrasting this with the data series County Business Patterns, we see that these types of small businesses represent 69% of the total businesses in Montana (save for railroad operations which are counted in a separate data series). It is important to remember that this is not a pure comparison, because one individual could be represented in both data series.

#### County Data

These data are available at the county level, and analysis shows most counties to be very much in-line with the state number of 69% (42 counties are within five percentage points of the statewide number). In looking at small versus large counties in terms of population, there is no clear guarantee that the status of urban or rural means that a county will necessarily have a high percentage of these businesses. Yet of the seven most populated counties, only two (Flathead and Lewis and Clark) have a slightly higher percentage than the statewide number. Meanwhile, the counties with the largest per capita number of these non-employer businesses, representing 80% or more of the total businesses in their county, are all rural (Golden Valley, Garfield, Jefferson and Granite).

#### Economic Impact

These businesses in Montana bring in more income than in most of the contiguous states. Only Idaho, with a 40% larger workforce, outpaces Montana.

	Receipts
Montana	\$2,787,587,000
Idaho	\$3,713,605,000
North Dakota	\$1,502,191,000
South Dakota	\$1,814,176,000
Wyoming	\$1,423,197,000

### CONTACT

[Andrew Geiger](#)  
[Research Analyst](#)

Census and Economic  
Information Center  
Montana Department  
of Commerce  
301 S. Park Avenue  
P.O. Box 200505  
Helena, MT 59620  
406.841.2740 Office  
406.841.2702 TDD  
<http://ceic.mt.gov/>

### RECENTLY RELEASED

#### September 28, 2005

State Personal Income and  
Per Capita Personal Income

#### September 26, 2005

New Economic Census  
Reports:  
Finance and Insurance  
Management of Companies  
and Enterprises

#### September 19, 2005

New Economic Census  
Reports: Construction

#### August 30, 2005

Health Insurance, Income  
and Poverty - state level

### UPCOMING RELEASES

#### October 2005

Computer and Internet Use,  
U.S. and States: 2003